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The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862, ~~603-964-8668~~ 617-891-8022

MONTHLY REPORT On New Year's Eve I received a crank call; someone with a diaper fetish looking to get beat up. It was Chicago's finest, Tri Sigma's own, Sharon (of the now famous FF 79 handcuffing incident) calling to say happy new year, to wish herself a happy birthday (always thought there was a striking resemblance between her and the new year's baby). We would like to send her a present. Sharon, which do you prefer, Pampers, or the old cloth type?

December was a busy month beginning with a successful business meeting, ending with Nancy getting blotto on a half-gallon of rum mixed proportionately into a glass of eggnog. (Nancy you should be ashamed!) Between those two events we got quite a lot done.

The business meeting was well attended (worthy of note in itself), and was fruitful. Besides settling the little stuff like who's coming to which party and who's going to bring what, several major things were resolved. The first thing resolved was 'should we and how could we support the developing Boston TS Rap Group.' (The answer was yes. See article.) The second, and most satisfying to me, was a positive and constructive discussion on the development of programs and membership growth. (This pleased me, for in my years of trying to develop Cherrystone and now Tiffany, this was the first time that the membership at large took an active part.) The third thing resolved was the formalizing of plans for our next party on Saturday, February 16, and for our annual spring bash. (See coming events)

Even before the business meeting, Barbara and I took part in another workshop, this time at the University of NH. Sponsored by Ann Dubois of the UNH Human Sexuality Center, the workshop was intended for counceling and psychology students and faculty. It was well attended but still small enough to promote dialog, and I had an absolute ball. (Rumor has it that one of the professors went home and put on one of his wife's nighties to see what would happen. Nothing --- he claims.)

(Ann Dubois, who sponsored the workshop, will be visiting the Tiffany Club Tuesday evening, January 26. She is absolutely one of the nicest people I know, and it's going to be fun. Everytime we've gotten together, I've been the attraction and she's been in the audience. The tables are about to be turned, and I can't wait.)

December was a month for Tiffany to settle down and tend to business. Among the projects were getting our boutique in order, which it now is (until Denise cleans it out that is), getting the library in order, and providing overnight space. Everything is now in order (sort of). Also during December both Mike F., a therapist for GIS, and Patsy Marie of Hartford TVIC, presented us with proposals for studies. In our own tender and gentle styles we murdered the proposals, bashed them around until we thought they made sense, and fed the remains back to their respective sponsors.

(I felt sorry for poor mike. In innocent good faith he visited us. When the mistake of stepping through the door was made, he was immediately trapped and cornered by the most savage among us, fed a tantalizing diet of polish cookies and cold coffee, and then mercilessly interrogated. - Have you ever been interrogated while being forced to eat a polish cookie? A horrible experience! - Still, at the end, he stood, dumping cookie crumbs, powdered sugar on the floor, the chair and his Harris Tweed jacket, and managed a smile, a feeble handshake and a vow to return. He hasn't returned.)

The major events for December were our Christmas dinner, and Kay's party. Our dinner was like Thanksgiving's, i.e. excellent food, and super company. (I do feel terrible about one thing though, and that's nancy's beautiful kugel. There I was, stuffed, my corset threads stretched to the limit, with a hefty serving of kugel placed before me. I looked at it, Nancy looked at me, I looked at Nancy, we both looked at the kugel, and Nancy said, "That good eh?" I felt awful.) The evening was topped (and my throat saved) by Shiela's video tape machine, and Kathy's portable movie theater. Kathy's movies are always great, but that video was more fun than four hours alone in Jordan's lingerie department.

The finale was Kay's party, when I took a few of Tiffany's uninitiated innocents to get a close look at the alternatives. By God, if they didn't enjoy themselves. But then, that's what it's all about.

On to January.

LOVE, Merissa Sherrill Lynn

Merissa

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-COOPERATION WITH MAYFLOWER A GOOD IDEA-

Iknow, I know, there are those among us who don't think it's such a good idea, but let's take a look at what we've got. Both Tiffany and Mayflower evolved from the same root, namely the old Cherrystone club, and our objectives remain similar, to better serve our people. Tiffany, with its emphasis on friendship and support can be called, let us say, 'liberal'.

There are Tiffany members (me included) who from time to time enjoy what Mayflower has to offer, and Mayflower members (Kay included) who from time to time enjoy what we have to offer. Tiffany and Mayflower memberships are approximately the same in screening proceedure, structure and price. As we search for members, we send people to Mayflower, and Mayflower sends people to us, depending on each candidate's preferences and needs. What I'm saying is Tiffany and Mayflower compliment one another, and we are both better off because of it.

We do have an arrangement with Mayflower, and for God's sake, if any of you passionately feels this is a bad arrangement, let me know, and we'll work something else out. First, let's review the basics. Tiffany forbids sexual and far-out activity, while Mayflower does not. Next our screening procedures are similar, namely we both screen peophe before they participate. We want people who will acknowledge our objectives and comply with our code of conduct, while Mayflower wants people who will respect other people's preferences and protect the security of all. In other words the people who want a swinging good time go there, and the people who want friendship come here, and neither of us want anyone who would be a security risk or fail to respect the rights of others.

This is the arrangement: 1. The arrangement only concerns Mayflower's and Tiffany's General and Keyholder members. 2. Tiffany's General and Keyholder members would be <u>invited</u> to Mayflower's special functions, and vise versa, subject to the established screening proceedures of our respective organizations. 3. A waiver of guest fees goes with the invitation.

With this type of arrangement we can protect the security and integrity of Tiffany while broadening the scope of services and avenues of growth for all our people. Mayflower benifits, Tiffany benifits, and above all our members benifit.

KAY

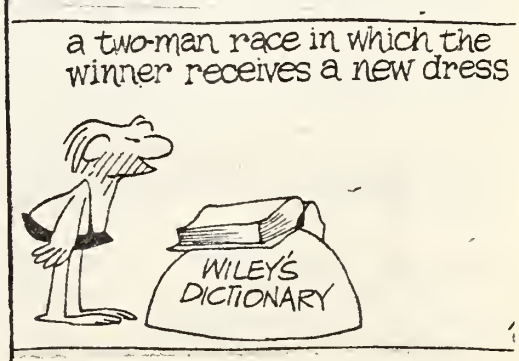
- BOSTON TS RAP GROUP -

Marie and Rachia. These two people have known the anguish of transition, of surgery, and adjustment. They now want nothing more than to help others. It is an important, and frustrating ambition. Both Marie and Rachia know the frustration well, but to their credit, they are trying once again, with the Rap Group. For them, the group is just a beginning towards greater service, namely towards the evolution of a Boston based support group for TS persons complete with live-in halfway houses, therapists, medical contacts, etc. Since Tiffany is primarily a social organization for crossdressers, and the Rap Group's objective is to form a support group for TS persons, and these open door rap sessions have the characteristic of welcoming all people TVs and TSs alike, and both the Tiffany leadership and Marie and Rachia are dedicated and responsible people, it is wise that we work together. NOW!! The time is right.

Here is how we will do it.

We will report all Boston Rap Group activities and announcements in our TV-TS Tapestry, and work with the Rap Group in our outreach projects. We will collect information of interest to both TVs and TSs, and have an accurate commercial and professional referrals list. We will invite all qualified TS persons to join Tiffany, and partake in our activities. The Rap Group meetings are open to all interested persons, and as such would attract avowed TSs and TVs, and a large number of undecided persons. The Rap Group then is an excellent opportunity to help people come out, find their way, to make contacts and find friends and support, and to get the information they need. The Tiffany Club is predominantly for crossdressers, and as such has a specialized field of expertise, as do Marie and Rachia. The open meetings are also an excellent screening device. Therefore, interested members of Tiffany would attend these meetings, meet and talk with people and help in any way possible. Then, when the TS Support Group has evolved, that group and Tiffany could take on the role of co-sponsors of the monthly open door rap sessions.

By working together we can achieve our mutual goal, which is to be of actual and valualbe service to all our people.



- ARI VS DONAHUE -

Ariadne Kane of the Outreach Institute was on the Phil Konahue show in mid December. The program will be aired in the Boston area on January 29.

I don't feel old at all. Transvestism keeps me young.

-Theda Mayem-
age 80 years

- OBITUARY -

Passed away this date Dee Dee N. of an undisguised affliction. Besides leaving a wife and a few relatives, he left 20 pairs of very fashionable high heels and a large wardrobe of dresses, skirts, and blouses, sizes 24 and 46.

Visiting hours will be from 5 to 7pm, where the wife will auction off the wardrobe. We do not know how he succeeded in the straight life but, his taste in female attire was impeccable. The widow wishes to thank Lane Bryant for the beautiful floral piece. He/she will be missed.

(Recently the Boston Globe carried a report on Dr. Jon Meyer's decision to end transsexual surgery. This decision proved unpopular not only among those awaiting surgery, but among many helping professionals as well. Carol Steinman is the director of Boston's GIS, and this is her reaction to that report.)

Study of transsexuals has just begun

We are unhappy with your one-sided and misleading report of Dr. Jon Meyer's study of transsexuals that appeared several months ago. For the record, we would like to say that the study of transsexuals — and the best way of helping people who feel that they have been born "into the wrong sex" — has just begun. Scientists and clinicians still have much to learn, although they know much more now than they did 20 years ago. Dr. Meyer's work, while it is one serious attempt to obtain greater understanding, certainly does not represent the last — or even the most authoritative — word in the opinion of other workers in the field.

Feelings run very high in this area, especially among those people who wrestle with transsexual feelings in themselves. The best proof of this comes from Dr. Meyer's work. None of the people in his study regretted the painful, expensive, and (from an outsider's point of view) seemingly mutilating surgery, and most of the people who had not yet had surgery still wanted it. Your article, with its incorrect implication that medicine and the allied professions are considering abandoning transsexual surgery would tend to cause candidates much needless anguish.

There is currently a broad international consensus among workers in the field that for certain carefully selected patients, surgery offers the best prospects of rehabilitation.

CAROL Z. STEINMAN
Gender Identity Service
Boston.

- COMING EVENTS -

TIFFANY CLUB 617-891-8022
OPEN MEETINGS: 7-11pm Tuesdays and Saturdays. Quiet and relaxed evenings among friends. Help with make-up and comportment upon request. BYOB-BYOF
FEES: guests $6.00, Special $5.00
Guest members and General and Keyholder members, no charge
TUESDAY, Jan. 29 we will have Ann Dubois, Director of the UNH Human Sexuality Center, as our guest. It will be a pleasant evening. Come and join us.
TRIP to Kim and Christine's Temptations Lounge Saturday, Feb. 2. If you are interested in going, please contact Merissa as soon as possible.
VALANTINE'S POT LUCK DINNER AND PARTY Saturday, February 16. For further information, call Merissa or Diane.
TIFFANY CLUB'S ANNUAL SPRINGTIME BASH Saturday, April 26. Location: in the Greater Boston area. This is Tiffany's largest social event of the year, and will be a catered affair. If you would like to attend, please send a note verifying your interest to Diane Berry, c/o Tiffany Club.

BOSTON TS RAP GROUP Open meetings 2nd Tues. of each month. (Day may be rescheduled.) For times and location, contact: Marie Berard in Cambridge 617-661-3855, or Rachia Heyelman Box 25 S.Orleans Mass. 02662

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY 617-254-7389 ask for Kay
OPEN MEETINGS: 7-11pm every Wednesday
MONTHLY PARTY Last Saturday of every month.

HARTFORD TVIC Meetings every 2nd Saturday. For information: Patsy Marie Pichon Box 180 West Hartford, Ct. 06107

ALBANY TVIC Monthly meetings every 3rd Saturday. For information: William Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany NY 12200

OUTREACH INSTITUTE For information on all Outreach events, write: Outreach Institue, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, Mass. 02215
MARCH GALA WEEKEND: March 21-23 Last year's Gala included workshops, cocktail parties, and the Harvard Hasty Pudding show.

SPRING FANTASIA FAIR: May 9 through May 18
FALL FANTASIA FAIR: October 17 through October 26

SHANGRI LA: Annual TV event held in Gulfport, Miss. April 9-13 1980. For information, Nancy Watson, Box 18202 Irvine, Cal. 92713

THE GREEN APPLE Rt 1, Peabody Mass. 535-9840
Female Impersonation, 7 nights a week, two shows nightly starting at 9pm. TVs welcome.

- BULLETIN BOARD -

$$ WANTED

Tiffany faces bills of $900.00 + each month ($600.00 rent plus utilities inc. oil). We need money not only to stay solvent, but to grow and to reach out to others. If you can, please help. It would be greatly appreciated.

NEW SOCIAL CLUB FORMING

ShangriLa is an annual social event for crossdressers. The springtime event held on the Gulf Coast, has proven so successful, and the demand so strong that as of January 1980 ShangriLa will become a national club. Although still centered around the spring get-together, ShangriLa will now have newsletters, I.D. cards, free mail forwarding, membership and commercial directories, etc.
Info: Nancy Watson
Box 18202
Irvine, Ca. 92713

TV SHOPPING

Carolyn has a small shop just north of Boston specializing in items of interest to TVs, i.e. maid's outfits, lingerie, hi-heels, boots, wigs, etc. She operates by appointment only, and does have a $25.00 minimum (so make sure she has what you want before you visit her). (Also, she does not have cosmetics, nor does she dress people.) For information and an appointment call: 662-4432 4-7pm

LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

Wanted: Books, Magazines, catalogs, newspapers, articles, news clippings, etc. of interest to crossdressers and TS persons.

The policy is all contributions will become the property of the Tiffany Club. All Items on loan would remain the property of the lender, and would be labled accordingly. No library item would be allowed to leave the library. So please, if you have any literature of interest, bring it in, and we'll put it to good us.

THANK YOU

BOUTIQUE POLICY

Contributions, clothes, shoes, wigs, lingerie, accessories, etc., will be the property of the Tiffany Club, and the income will be used for outreach purposes.

On Consignment, Tiffany asks 20% of selling price. Items for sale must be clean.

FORUM

(The Forum is for exploring what we think, what we feel, what we say and do, for exploring our difficulties, our guilts and fears, and how we can overcome them. The Forum is not for fiction or fantasy or technical articles. Rather, it is for talk, for thought, for understanding ourselves and one another, and for sharing ourselves with others.)

OUR GOLDEN AGERS
message by Merissa

Recently I received a letter from Theda, a Tiffany Golden ager. In it were themes I have heard time and time again not only from Theda, but from Frances, from Eloise, from Charlotte, Shirley and others. These themes are, 1.) Forget about the idea that the desire to dress will go away. It doesn't. 2.) When I am dressed I don't feel old at all. Transvestism keeps me young. And, 3.) The most important theme of them all, lonliness.

I wanted to talk about lonliness.

In our golden agers we see ourselves, our lives yet to be. We are enriched by their good company, their experience, and their friendship. Here we are, crossdressers, probably put on earth to confuse society. There are not many of us (not many that will admit it anyway), and that makes us particularly prone to lonliness, especially when we get older and it becomes more difficult to get around. We are all in this together, bound together by common interest. Also, we are all human, we think, we feel, and we are alive. In effect then, we are a family. Because society cannot satisfy our special needs, we have got to stick by one another, love one another, care for and about one another. If we don't, who will? If we don't we are condemning ourselves to lonliness, and as Eloise has so bluntly stated, lonliness can kill.

Her Royal Highness Duchess Theda of Transvestonia, in her 79th year.